



Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture

Date: July 7, 2022

Time: 7:00-8:30pm

Location: Zoom

Minutes

Attending: Stewart Ikeda, Tom Formicola, Lidia Kenig-Scher, Steve Poltorzycki, Sarah Morgan-Wu, Cristin Canterbury Bagnall, Brian McMurray

Absent: Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Christine Noah, Beth Locke, Tom Davison

Guests: Cecily Miller, Ali Carter, Kelly Lynema, Terry Holt, Anna Litten, Ed Blundell, Adria Arch, Public Guest

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm

1) ROLL CALL

2) APPROVAL OF JUNE MINUTES

- Minutes unanimously approved small edits

3) INTRODUCTIONS

- Several new liaisons introduced themselves, at least temporarily representing departing members
- Anna Litten, Acting Library Director, will be Library Liaison to the Cultural District Core Managing Partners replacing Andrea Nicolay, with discussion to follow as to whether she would also assume Nicolay's voting Commissioner seat; Sarah Morgan-Wu will take over Cultural District coordinator role previously held by Nicolay
- Outgoing DPCD liaison Ali Carter introduced Kelly Lynema, Acting Director of DPCD, who will be or appoint new liaison, TBD
- Brian McMurray was previously voted in by the Grants to replace Nick Castellano as its voting liaison; McMurray had already previously been sworn in before the Select Board, so its within the GC's ability to shift ACAC liaisons by internal vote

4) UPDATE FROM CO-CHAIRS

- Remote Meetings are scheduled to expire July 15; there are currently some state government proposals to extend policy or allow hybrid meetings that could permit continued remote meeting; Stewart has reached out re: physical rooms that might be scheduled if in-person meetings are required.

5) LIVE ARTS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATES

- Cristin Canterbury Bagnall presented information about the Live Arts performance series, to resume July 15, with all featured performances to be held on Friday evenings at 6PM in the newly reconstructed Broadway Plaza
- Commission volunteers have opportunities to greet the public, document the events, and share information about our programs and what we do if we take turns attending

- We need to provide much clearer instruction about the process for applying for, paying for, and selecting locations for busking than is provided for in the Select Board application form on the Town website
- Cecily Miller presented her recommendations on a proposal she received by a local artist who wishes to install a whimsical “Fairy House” art piece on a tree in Spy Pond Park. She recommended ACAC’s approval of the proposal’s artistic merit, on condition that the artist also agree to monitor and maintain the piece on a regular basis, and consult the Friends of Spy Pond Park and the Town Tree Warden about her plan. The artist will then have ACAC’s recommendation for her application to the Parks and Rec, which will have final authority.

6) ARLINGTON CULTURAL DISTRICT UPDATES

- The MCC has significantly adjusted key aspects of its Cultural District Initiative in ways that impact Arlington. ACD’s designation was just about to go up for renewal when we received notice that our designation would be automatically extended to a total period of 10 years. Annual reporting at least for now will continue.
- Significant COVID-recovery grants are available and eligibility has been extended to Cultural Districts
- Sarah Morgan-Wu has called an outside meeting of Core Managing Partners later in July to analyze and discuss the changes both to Arlington CD agreements and functioning within ACAC, personnel changes, and the changes in state procedures, with results to be presented at a future ACAC meeting.
- Christine Noah of the Fundraising Committee shared in writing that Mirak Properties had made a generous donation to sponsor the exciting new Cultural District Self-Guided Audio Tour.

6) TOWN DAY AND PLEIN AIR

- Lidia, Sarah and artist Maryanne Hondo are organizing “En Plein Air” painting event to be held within the Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden, as reported in earlier meetings, with a plan and budget approved by the co-chairs.
- ACAC will have an additional booth on the street, shared with DPCD. This should be staffed by representatives of ACAC to both promote our high-profile activities and committees (Grants Committee cycle, ARPA-funded murals, Live Arts) and also redirect traffic into the Garden. Ideally, ACAC’s Town Day presence would be produced by a coordinator or project manager with new promotional collateral and signage, appealing programming. Some commissioners with dual roles such as Library, ACA, Chamber will have other responsibilities that day and be unable to participate. Lidia will poll whole Commission list for volunteers.

9) NEW BUSINESS

- Ed Blundell, who worked with Tom Davison on producing an excellent Garage Band event, as the afterparty to an equally excellent Arlington Center for the Arts-produced Porchfest day, presented a new idea arising out of Fundraising Committee. He is investigating bands for a high-profile concerts, possibly to be held in the Regent Theatre, to benefit ACAC. These would possibly be staged in early December. Ed will report on developments to the Fundraising and Community Engagement committees which would naturally collaborate on this kind of project.
- The Grants Committee is surveying the community about its practices and priorities; ACAC will help disseminate the survey widely.
- Terry Holt is looking for help collecting content and updates for the website and newsletter, including commissioner profiles, information about upcoming Artist in Residence projects, Live Arts act details, and other.
- Stewart Ikeda suggests foregoing the formal August meeting in favor of an in-person mixer, providing an opportunity for the Commission to be reintroduced to the many new stakeholders and contacts that are unfamiliar with us, and to strengthen working relationships after such a prolonged period of working remotely. He will send around a poll to the commission and committees on preferences and dates.

Meeting adjourned 8:47pm

Respectfully submitted by Stewart Ikeda

